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COUNTRY RumaniaREPORT NO. TOPIC Soviet Troops in Rumania**RETURN TO CIA
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30 October 1950

REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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Soviet Troops in the Timisoara-Arad Area

1. In late February 1950 about 200 Soviet tanks were observed on the northern perimeter of Timisoara (R 16/T 91). All of the barracks of the first municipal district in the inner city were occupied by Soviet troops. Some of the Soviet soldiers wore tank insignia on their epaulets. Troops observed on the march were in the platoon strength or company strength at most.
2. Rumanian civilians said that Soviet troops frequently moved in both directions between the Banat and Hungary. (1)
- 25X1X 3. was told by a friend that Arad (R 16/U 16) was occupied by Soviet artillery units in January 1950.
4. Estimates by students of the Rumanian War College on the strength of Soviet forces stationed in the Banat varied from two to six divisions. (1)

Soviet Troops in the Ramnic Sarat-Focsani-Panciu-Galati Area

5. According to students of the Rumanian War College, most of the Soviet troops were stationed in the Ramnic Sarat (R 45/Y 44) - Focsani (R 45/Y 58) - Panciu (R 46/T 40) - Galati (R 55/Z 25) area.
6. Rumanian officers who had served with Rumanian line units in southern Moldavia in the summer of 1949 said that the Soviet billeting area began near Gugesti (R 45/Y 56) in the south and extended as far as north of Adjud (R 46/T 52). The Soviet troops in this area were quartered in bivouacs in woods, in cantonments and in towns. Tank, SP artillery, light and heavy artillery units, AAA, signal, engineer units, including bridge construction units, and motorized infantry units were observed. No estimate of the strength of these troops was possible. (2)

Soviet Troops in the Dobruja

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7. According to comrades who made their observations in the summer of 1949, Soviet units of undetermined strength were stationed in Constanta (R 53/54/E 71) and in the coastal district. Marine, coastal artillery and AAA

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units were also quartered in this area. (3)

Information on Various Cities

8. Apart from Soviet AF units, Soviet high-echelon headquarters and supply organizations were located in Bucharest prior to February 1950. Targu Mures (R 36/R 68), Slatina (R 33/34/B 24), Craiova and Brasov (R 35/X 37) were not occupied by Soviet troops in early 1950. (4)

Soviet Officers.

9. Soviet Colonel Zerpheko, (fnu), was attached as a military advisor to the Rumanian General Staff.
10. Source knew that Soviet military advisors were attached to the Rumanian Ministry of Defense, the General Staff and the commands of the individual branches of the service. He believed that such advisors were also attached to the Rumanian military districts and army corps. No Soviet advisors are attached to the divisions or lower units.

Miscellaneous Information.

11. No information was available on common maneuvers held by Soviet and Rumanian troops. Source believed that such maneuvers were not conducted prior to the beginning of 1950. Because of the intensive peace campaign which is also being waged in Rumania, even Rumanian military circles know nothing of a possible utilization of the Rumanian Army in case of war. Non-Communist students of the Rumanian War College were of the opinion that the Rumanian Army would not be committed under Rumanian leadership. They believed that, at the most, units up to army corps level would be employed under Soviet commanders.

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Comments.

- (1) From the end of 1949 to mid-March 1950, Soviet troops estimated at about one division, either a tank or mechanized division, were reportedly stationed in the Timisoara-Arad area. [redacted] This information was confirmed by subject report although the mentioned strength of two to six divisions appears exaggerated. The statement on frequent Soviet troop movements between the Banat and Hungary agrees with reports covering the same period of observation according to which Soviet units left Timisoara in a northwesterly direction in early April 1950 and other units were unloaded in Szeged, Hungary, in mid-April 1950. [redacted]
- (2) Soviet troops were reportedly stationed in the Brila-Salati area in late October 1949. [redacted]. They were probably elements of the 25th Gds Mecz Div believed to be stationed in this area. [redacted]. Soviet park of over 200 canvas-covered tanks or SP guns and Soviet soldiers and motor vehicles were accidentally seen by another source during the same period on the Ianniculi-Focsani road and in Tecuci (R 45/X 79). [redacted] When connected with subject report it is not impossible that all these observations concern one and the same unit, which would mean that the billeting area of the 25th Gds Mecz Div was in the Salati-Brila-Ianniculi-Focsani-Tecuci area in the summer and fall of 1949. The Soviet units which arrived in the area north of Constanta in April and May 1950 probably were elements of the 25th Gds Mecz Div which may have moved to this area only for training purposes.

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- (3) The information confirms previous reports referring to the same period of time. [redacted]
- (4) The data on the occupation of various Rumanian cities and towns agree with available information. However, no permanent occupation was reported for Bucharest during this time and only small liaison or rear details were observed in the Craiova area. [redacted]

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